

Claims 42-50 remain pending, with Claims 42, 46 and 50 being independent.

Claims 42-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,563,542 (Hatakenaka et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As recited in independent Claim 42, the present invention relates to an image reproducing apparatus including an interface, reproducing means, a designating unit and a display unit. The interface connects to a storage medium which stores an image. The reproducing means reads out the image stored in the storage medium via the interface and causes a display apparatus to display the read-out image. The designating unit designates the image, displayed on the display apparatus, as a print subject. The display control unit causes the display apparatus to display a print setting screen, in accordance with the designation by the designating unit. A print instruction is confirmed upon a subsequent designation by the designating unit after the display control unit effects control to cause the display apparatus to display the print setting screen.

As recited in independent Claim 46, the present invention relates to a control method for an image reproducing apparatus including a display apparatus and an instruction unit for receiving an operation instruction by a user. The method includes a reproducing step of reading out an image stored in a storage medium via an interface for connecting thereto and causing the display apparatus to display the read-out image. The method further includes a designating step of designating the image displayed on the display apparatus as a print subject in accordance with the operation instruction received by

the instruction unit and a display control step for causing the display apparatus to display a print setting screen, in accordance with the designation in said designating step. The method still further includes an execution step of confirming a print instruction upon receiving a subsequent operation instruction by the instruction unit after the display control step effects control to cause the display apparatus to display the print setting screen.

Independent Claim 50 is directed to a computer readable medium storing a program for causing an image reproducing apparatus including a display apparatus and an instruction unit for receiving an operation instruction by a user to execute a control method similar to that in independent Claim 46.

With the above arrangement, method and medium, printing can be executed by two designations (e.g., as disclosed at page 27, lines 13-21), thereby starting the printing by a simple operation while avoiding erroneous starting of printing by a single (first) instruction operation.

Hatakenaka et al. relates to an electronic camera that has a menu switch for displaying a first print mode of printing only image data and a second print mode of superimposing and printing attendant data on the image data. When an image file recorded on a recording medium is to be displayed, if the camera is in the first print mode, attendant data is superimposed and displayed on image data at the start of display and only the image data is displayed after a predetermined period. If the camera is in the second print mode, the attendant data is always superimposed and displayed on the image data during display.

More particularly, as understood by Applicant, in Hatakenaka et al. when a user depresses a print switch 17 first, a print menu shown in Figure 4A is displayed on display 8. On the print menu display screen, the user sets print items such as selection of an image the user wishes to be printed. When the menu screen of Figure 4A is displayed, a cursor is positioned on the “NEXT” button to be operated so that the display screen is changed to a next print menu display screen selected by the operation of the cursor, for example, the display screen shown in Figure 4B. If the user decides to print the image, that is, confirms a print instruction, the item “SELECT PRINT” in the print menu display screen of Figure 4B has to be selected by operating the cursor and then operating an execution switch 18 to confirm. See column 7, lines 9-14. Hatakenaka et al. fails to teach that when the print menu display screen of Figure 4A is displayed upon depression of the print switch 17, a print instruction is confirmed in response to the subsequent depression of the print switch 17. In addition, since Hatakenaka et al. selects the image to be printed after the print menu display screen of Figure 4A is displayed, the reference fails to teach to select the image to be printed, without displaying the print menu display screen.

Accordingly, Hatakenaka et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least designating an image displayed on a display apparatus as a print subject, causing the display apparatus to display a print setting screen in accordance with the designation and confirming a print instruction upon a subsequent designation, or upon receiving a subsequent operation instruction, after effecting control to cause the display apparatus to display the print setting screen, as is recited in the independent claims.

Accordingly, Hatakenaka et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

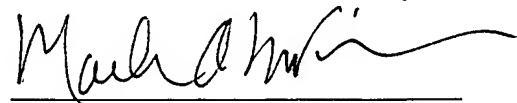
Thus, independent Claims 42, 46 and 50 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 42, 46 and 50. Dependent Claims 43-45 and 47-49 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark A. Williamson
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 33,628

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
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